

ANECDOTES OF KIM JONG UN'S LIFE



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FOREWORD

Today, when a new era of comprehensive construction of socialism is being ushered in and their ideals and dreams are being translated into reality one after another, the people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea hold their leader Kim Jong Un, president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, in reverence and follow him single-mindedly.

Cherishing the people-first principle as his lifetime motto, Kim Jong Un directs all his thinking and activities to the service for the people and find the worth and delight of his life in devoting his all for their wellbeing.

A leader who loves his people indefinitely, a man who spares nothing for the sake of his people, a man who regards hardships for the good of his people as pleasures—these are part of the comments on him by the international community.

He is on the road of field guidance trips to realize the people's ideals.

The Editorial Board publishes *Anecdotes of Kim Jong Un's Life*, a book containing a selection from the numerous anecdotes that relate to his field guidance trips.

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Ennobling Loyalty

Early Morning

The following happened on an August day in 2009.

The manageress of the Pothonggang Shop heard a car pulling up in front of her shop and ran out towards the gate. To her surprise, she saw Kim Jong Un alighting from the car.

She greeted him hurriedly.

The guest said he was there to learn about which instructions Chairman Kim Jong Il had given the day before while looking round the shop.

Guided by the manageress, he reached the fruits counter on the first floor and gazed at the apple parcels on display. He turned towards his entourage, asking them to study how apples were packaged in other countries.

Kim Jong Un made the rounds of the fruits display cases and counters, and then pointed out the low illuminance of the fluorescent lights in the lobby and asked the manageress if there were lifts for goods.

She said yes.

He was lost in thought for a minute and led the way to the

second floor. Walking up the staircase, he said that if the shop had no lift for carrying customers, it would be exhausting for them to go up and down the stairs holding their plastic bags of shopping in both hands.

He looked round the meats counter on the second floor and specified some drawbacks that might cause inconvenience to customers.

He saw a diverse array of meats and meat products, before asking how heavy a turkeys was.

The manageress answered 5kg to 14kg.

He said that they were too heavy for customers to carry, imitating a man carrying a huge bag of rice on his back.

The officials burst out laughing. Soon they were seized with remorse for not caring about the comfort of customers.

The manageress was vividly reminded of what Kim Jong Il said the previous day: It will be hard for the elderly to go up and down the stairs carrying their shopping bags, and this is an expression of our officials' lack of loyalty to the people.

It was not until that moment that the manageress understood why Kim Jong Un decided to inspect her shop early in the morning.

Before leaving the shop, he consulted with her about the lift for carrying customers and stressed that it should be installed as

soon as possible for the convenience of the people.

She admired his ennobling spirit of loving the people.

Fish for the Mourners

On December 18, 2011, one day after Kim Jong Il passed away, officials received a report that the planned amount of fish arrived at a port on the east coast of Korea on the evening of the 16th.

By that time Kim Jong Un was busy due to his heavy workload, so the officials hesitated to inform him of the fact.

Actually, the fish were associated with the General's benevolent care for Pyongyang citizens.

The General had Alaska Pollack and herring been supplied to the people in the capital city, and took steps to have Alaska Pollack and herring obtained for them on the occasion of New Year's Day; at 21:13 on December 16, one day before his death, he wrote his signature on a document concerning the supply of fish.

While Kim Jong Un was briefed on the arrival of fish and the document containing the General's last signature, his yearning for the benevolent leader grew stronger.

He told officials that the fish were worth their weight in

gold and they should be supplied to the people as soon as possible. And he adopted specific measures to transport them to Pyongyang by charter train.

Pyongyang citizens, still grieving over the loss of their great leader, were very surprised when they were informed about the supply of fresh fish.

Thanks to the warm affection shown by Kim Jong Un, they were supplied with fresh fish in the mourning period.

With Maternal Affection

In December 2011 Kim Jong Il passed away too unexpectedly. All the people were writhing in agony and the whole country was turned into a sea of tears.

The heavily falling snow did not cease throughout the month. Despite the biting cold and blinding snow, the citizens of Pyongyang weiled in bitter tears day and night in front of the portraits of Kim Jong Il.

Kim Jong Un was so worried about the people who stood guard beside the portraits every night. On several occasions he underlined the need to ensure that the mourners did not get frostbitten while standing long in the winter cold.

Accordingly, a number of measures were adopted: allowing

the people to wear fur caps, scarves, gloves and earmuffs when queuing or standing guard, except for when bowing; setting up makeshift “clinics” and facilities for warming nearby; sending tens of thousands of insoles and other devices worn for warmth, as well as honey, cow milk powder, bread, biscuits and other foodstuffs.

Kim Jong Un also had large amounts of sugar sent to the mourners across the city, saying that hot, sweet water would be better in cold winter and they should be served with it.

After taking all such necessary steps, he pondered on how to console the mourners in distress.

At last he decided to send a letter to the officials concerned.

It reads:

The Pyongyang Municipal Party Committee has a very important duty to perform in relieving the citizens of the pain they are suffering now.

With the full awareness and proper attitude that they are true servants of Pyongyang citizens, you, officials of the committee, should make careful arrangements for the comfort of the people.

And I wish you to console the depressed people with maternal affection and care.

Kim Jong Un
December 25, 2011

A Proposal Turned Down

One day in February 2012 the residents in the city of Manpho, Jagang Province, moved into new houses.

Kim Jong Un received a letter from these people.

It reads in part:

Our dear respected leader Kim Jong Un,

We are longing to see you even in our dreams. Households in Manpho, numbering 245, have moved into new houses that have been built on the bank of the Amnok River under the General's and your benevolent care. As we have gathered together to celebrate the happy event, we are sending you this letter to express our deep gratitude to you for your parental concern.

The General said in his lifetime that Manpho was keeping socialism in its original form and it was a model in all aspects for the whole country to follow. On his several visits to the city he underlined the importance of redeveloping it as befits a border town of Korea. And Kim Jong Un took a series of steps to build new houses for the residents on the bank of the Amnok River. To live up to the General's and Kim Jong Un's affection and trust they worked hard to reap a bumper harvest, thus overfulfilling the cereals production plan for the previous year.

Citing these facts, the letter ended as follows:

Our yearning for the General grows stronger as our town has been transformed beyond recognition and our living standards are improving as a result of good farming. We feel so guilty as none of us ever prepared a good meal for the General who devoted his whole life to the good of the people. With a strong yearning for him and out of our unshakeable loyalty to him, we have collected 100 tons of white-polished rice we harvested last year and packed them in 50kg bags. Our wish is that you accept our sincere donation for the erection of a statue of the General.

Every word of the letter reflected the residents' moral obligation to the General.

Kim Jong Un wrote in his reply to this letter:

The chief secretary of the Jagang Provincial Party Committee,
The chief secretary of the Manpho City Party Committee,

I have rejoiced at the news that the residents in Manpho were very pleased to move to new houses which had been constructed under the care of the General. In the future the officials of the provincial and city Party committees should make sure that his warm affection goes down for long along with the new houses. They should always pay meticulous concern to the problem of people's living and their troubles and resolve them in time. They should also give priority to their interests in all aspects of their work. In this way they should implement our Party's people-

oriented policies and honour the name of the General forever. I thank the people in Manpho for proposing to donate 100 tons of white-polished rice, which they collected with utmost care, for the soldiers who have been seconded to the erection of a statue of the General.

I am very grateful to them. I accept their sincerity but I decline their proposal. I will convey to the great General the sincere devotion with which our people support their leader maintaining close ties of kinship with him.

I advise that true to the noble intentions of the General who loved his people and devoted his life entirely to their interests and wellbeing, the officials of the provincial and city Party committees apportion the whole amount of the rice among the local people and their children as a token of his affection for them.

I believe you will do so without fail.

The letter from the people in Manpho has given me great encouragement and I have hardened my determination to redouble my efforts for the revolution.

Kim Jong Un

February 14, 2012

Receiving his reply, the residents in Manpho shed tears of gratitude for Kim Jong Un.

Man of the Type of a General

Posing for a Photo with an Old Officer

Why He Returned

One day in May 2010 Kim Jong Un visited the Gifts Exhibition House under the then Ministry of the People's Armed Forces.

For long hours he looked round the exhibits associated with the service personnel's sincere devotion, underlining the need to preserve them in their original state.

His guide was the directress of the exhibition house, an old-timer who had shown President Kim Il Sung and General Kim Jong Il around the gifts on several occasions.

Told that the directress was nearing sixty, he asked when her birthday was and how long she served the army and stressed repeatedly that she should serve the army for more years and work harder in good health.

As he was taking his departure, the directress earnestly wished she could have posed for a photo with him just as she had done with the President and the General.

As his car was speeding off, she stood still, wishing him

good health.

To her surprise, however, the car made a U-turn and returned to where she was standing. She rushed towards it. The car halting in front of her, Kim Jong Un told her to get into it.

With a benevolent smile on his face, he said to the directress: I have come back because the thought of failing to have a photo taken with you is weighing on my mind.

Tears swelling up in her eyes, she could not find words to express her gratitude to him.

Kim Jong Un suggested that they pose for a photo in front of the gift where the General had posed with her before.

Fully convinced that he was showing meticulous concern for the service personnel, the old officer posed for a photo, half smiling and half in tears.

Promise

One August day in 2011 Kim Jong Un visited the above Gifts Exhibition House again.

It took long hours for him to look round the exhibition rooms.

To relieve him of his fatigue, his guide, daughter of the old directress, told him that she would sing *At a Go*.

After listening to the song, Kim Jong Un exclaimed: You are a good singer. When showing me around the gifts just before, the directress sang a song. You and your mother sing very well.

Then he asked her where she had learned music. Told that she had taken part in the performances held in the presence of President Kim Il Sung, he asked how old she had been when attending the first performance.

He asked her to sing more songs. Listening to her songs, he clapped his hands.

She pledged to him that she would follow in her mother's footsteps and devote her life to propagating the exploits performed by the generals of Mt Paektu. He spoke highly of her good decision.

The directress and her daughter wanted to pose for a camera with him.

Reading their mind, he told them that he was sorry that the cameramen were not with him, promising that next time he would have a photo taken with them.

Coming closer to the daughter, he said: Let us make a promise. To make it real, we should have our little fingers hooked.

Then he had his little finger hooked with hers and said: Let us "seal" with our thumbs.

And he pressed his thumb against hers.

This promise was a token of his appreciation for the women officers who were working with devotion in the sector of revolutionary relics.

Admiration of a Docent

The following happened in September 2010, when Kim Jong Un was looking round the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum.

At Room No. 2 of the hall for the first stage of the Fatherland Liberation War the docent said, pointing at a tank in the middle of the room: This is the tank No. 312 which was the first to enter the citadel of the enemy. Our People's Army launched its general offensive at 5 a.m. on June 28, 1950, killing, injuring and capturing more than 21 000 enemy soldiers and accomplished the operation at 11:30 a.m. the same day.

After listening carefully to what she had to say, Kim Jong Un asked: I have seen a picture of this tank at dawn today. What type is it?

It is T-34, was the answer.

What is the calibre of its gun? asked Kim Jong Un.

The docent was fluent in answering: It is a 76-millimetre gun.

Kim Jong Un looked attentively at the tank and said: No. There are two types of T-34, one being long-barrelled and the other short-barrelled. The latter has a 76-millimetre gun and the

former an 85-millimetre one. This tank has a long-barrelled gun and its calibre must be 85 millimetres.

The docent stood dumbfounded, hardly believing what she heard. It had been known that this tank had a 76-millimetre gun. And a large number of specialists in the military hardware sector had visited the museum for decades but there was nobody who expressed doubt as to the calibre of the gun.

Kim Jong Un said to the docent: Measure the calibre of this gun later.

“Yes, sir,” said the latter.

In the hall for merited weaponry Kim Jong Un looked carefully at the combat and technical equipment on display.

He halted in front of the *Minchong*-brand automatic gun, and said: Here is an automatic gun. What is its calibre?

“76 millimetres,” was the reply.

Then this gun belongs to SU-76. An automatic gun is of two types—SU-76 and SU-100. The calibre of the former is 76 millimetres and that of the latter 100 millimetres, said Kim Jong Un.

Pointing at T-34 No. 104 standing nearby, he asked: What is the calibre of its gun?

“85 millimetres.”

He gave a nod and said: T-34 is of two types, one with a hatch and the other with two hatches. The former has a 76-millimetre

gun and the latter an 85-millimetre one.

The officials and the docent listened attentively to his technical explanation.

Seeing Yak-18 No. 03, he said: Yak-18 is of two types, one being tail-wheeled and the other front-wheeled. This is a tail-wheeled plane.

Following his departure, the staff of the museum including the docent were surprised to find that the above-mentioned T-34 had an 85-millimetre gun.

They gained a lasting impression from his specialist knowledge of military hardware, both latest and conventional.

Guiding a Concert

One day Kim Jong Un saw a concert by a band of the Korean People's Army.

Put on stage were *The Victorious Parade*, *Song of Mangyongdae* and *Silvery Wings*.

When the performance of these pieces was over, he clapped his hands, praising the brass band for its excellent skills and good arrangement of the songs. He instructed the band master to stop following the concert programme and perform the song he would choose.

Then he chose *Song of Coast Artillerymen*. The band performed the song with great verve.

Saying that the performance fitted in with the character of the song, he asked the band master: Don't you think the tempo was a bit quick?

Blushing, the latter came to the realization that they performed the piece too fast because they were concentrating on representing the soaring morale of coast artillerymen.

Kim Jong Un resumed with a laugh: How can coast artillerymen charge their guns at such a high speed? That tempo is suitable for AA gunners.

On New Year's Day

Demonstration of Faith and Will

It was New Year's Day in 2012, the first year after General Kim Jong Il passed away.

At daybreak the soldiers of the Seoul Ryu Kyong Su Guards 105th Tank Division were standing in front of the barracks with a strong yearning for the General.

As they were staring at the snow-covered road leading to their division, the road along which the General and Kim Jong Un had come to inspect it, they saw some cars

rolling along towards them.

The cars pulled up before the soldiers and Kim Jong Un got off. Upon seeing him, they raised loud cheers.

Kim Jong Un, looking round the hall dedicated to the history of the division, said: Early this morning I visited the Kumsusan Memorial Palace to pay homage to the great General. It seemed to me that he was telling me to inspect army units, so I have come straight to this division.

Guided by the commanding officers of the division, he made the rounds of the barracks in which it was warm enough, mess hall, bathhouse, training ground and other places of the division. Looking round these places along the course he had followed in the company of the General two years previously, he felt as if he were there with the General.

He said to the accompanying officials: I have inspected the Seoul Ryu Kyong Su Guards 105th Tank Division on the first morning of the new year we greet in tears of blood. This inspection is the announcement of my unshakeable faith and determination to invariably hold up the banner of Songun true to the intentions of our great leaders Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il and build a thriving socialist country of Juche on this land.

His visit to the division on the first day of the new century of Juche Korea was a demonstration of his faith and will to carry

forward the revolutionary cause of Juche on this land.

Room Temperature

That day Kim Jong Un was guided to the barracks of a sub-unit of the division.

He asked the commander of the sub-unit what the room temperature was.

The latter offered no reply, looking a bit embarrassed.

Kim Jong Un smiled and said: I already know the temperature of this bedroom, so be frank with me. Never dream of telling me a lie.

Some officials smiled pleasantly at this joke.

One of them said that he felt warm enough in the room as a solar-powered water heater was installed there.

Shaking his head in doubt, Kim Jong Un said that the officers of the sub-unit should give him a reply as they lived with the soldiers.

An officer answered that the usual temperature was between 15°C and 17°C.

Kim Jong Un asked him what the current temperature was.

The officer replied 14°C.

Kim Jong Un nodded at him and led the way to the washroom. There he turned on the tap and felt the water temperature.

Cold water overflowing from the basin underneath, he stood still.

He said at last: There is no hot water yet. The sensor of the solar-powered water heater indicates that the water temperature is 20°C, but I do not think it is.

An officer explained that hot water would be running after the tube got empty, adding that on a sunny day the water temperature would range between 70°C and 90°C, reaching 100°C at the highest.

Kim Jong Un looked out of the windows and said, looking somewhat serious: Today it is cloudy, so the water temperature does not go up.

The officer wondered if this might be another joke and said that the water temperature was low because the tank was refilled and the water in it was not heated yet.

Kim Jong Un said, laughing: Then I will come again tomorrow morning to measure the water temperature.

All officials in his company joined the laughter.

They could now understand that his intention was to ensure that the officers of the sub-unit paid close concern to providing every convenience for the comfort of their soldiers in the cold weather.

Warm Affection for Pilots

In January 2012 Kim Jong Un inspected an air force unit. Seeing their Supreme Commander, the service personnel raised loud cheers.

After posing for a photo with them, he saw the pilots' flight training. He praised them for their bravery, saying that they were very good at steering the aircraft, particularly landing and taking off. He underscored the need for them to cherish the lofty spirit of Hero Kil Yong Jo.

He continued to specify what needed to be done to prepare them as combatants who would defy death to defend the Party and the leader, the country and the people.

At the mess hall he saw various foodstuffs on a worktop and asked what the pilots liked most, how fish was supplied to the unit and if it was provided with butter on a regular basis.

Looking closely at what were laid on the worktop, he said that the pilots should be well fed because of their mental and physical stress and emphasized that nothing should be spared for them.

He went out of the mess hall and moved towards his car.

Pointing at a big fish in the car, he told the officers that it was for the pilots.

Weighing nearly 60kg, the rare fish was *Aristichthyis nobilis*.

It usually takes about three years for a fish of this species to weigh three or four kilograms.

The officers were not sure how old it was, but it was the first time for them to see such a large freshwater fish.

Kim Jong Un told them and the soldiers on the cook's duty how to prepare dishes with the fish.

At the mealtime after he left their unit, the pilots sat by a spread. They had the dishes with relish, wondering how the large fish had been caught in the middle of the freezing winter. They could not know that the people had presented it to Kim Jong Un out of their wish for his good health.

On a Folk Holiday

On a cold February day in 2012 Kim Jong Un inspected the command of a unit of the Korean People's Army Navy. It was a folk holiday, a Full Moon Day.

The sailors were moved to tears, seeing the Supreme Commander who had come a long way to inspect their unit.

He had a photograph taken with them and made the rounds

of various places of the unit. He inquired in detail about the unit's combat readiness and showed paternal concern for the sailors' living conditions.

He then went to the mess hall, in which he saw noodles and twisted bread being prepared as special foods for the folk holiday. He asked if the sailors liked the foods and underlined the importance of serving them with many good dishes.

He continued to inspect another unit.

He went into the mess hall and asked the cooks in the kitchen what they were preparing for the service personnel on the folk holiday.

He beamed, seeing a worktop overflowing with subsidiary foodstuffs and the mussels cultivated by the unit itself. He asked the cooks how they prepared the shellfish.

He told the officers of the unit that they should endeavour to provide the sailors with better foods, bearing in mind the great leaders' instruction that supply service is an aspect of political work.

They all stood silent, looking up to the Supreme Commander who was showing close concern for his soldiers' living conditions while inspecting a KPA unit on the folk holiday.

They said to themselves: Our Supreme Commander is always among his soldiers and he is our benevolent father.

Wrinkled Face

It was an early chilly morning when Kim Jong Un arrived at a unit defending an island on the East Sea of Korea.

Looking round the barracks, kitchen in the mess hall and other places of the unit, he commended it for its meticulous lifestyle and cultured living practices. He was most pleased to see a welfare facility with a slogan reading *Serve the Soldiers!* He was also guided to a store packed with an assortment of subsidiary foodstuffs and then to a greenhouse covered with PVC sheeting. He praised the unit for having built the greenhouse of a unique design by itself.

In the mess hall he saw tasty foods on the tables, joking that the commander of the unit must have had a spread prepared on hearing that he would visit the unit.

The officer said that it was the usual menu for the soldiers and the vegetables were from the greenhouse.

Kim Jong Un told him that he had skipped breakfast that day but he felt full now, calling the commander a conscientious officer.

He looked steadily at the commander and said: There are fine wrinkles on your face. They remind me of our mothers

who endure hardship for their children's sound and healthy growth. You must have taken much trouble for your soldiers. You are a man of conscience. Today I am most pleased to see a conscientious officer here. I appreciate you for the fact that living for scores of years on this far-flung island, you have devoted your all to perfecting your unit's combat readiness and improving the soldiers' living standards. You should train reliable officers until you are 70 years old. You should be determined after passing the baton to them to work with me for ten more years. I need such officers as you.

Seeing the officer's wrinkled face, Kim Jong Un understood the painstaking effort he must have made on a far-flung island to provide his soldiers with better living conditions.

True to the Supreme Commander's lofty intentions, all the officers of the Korean People's Army strive to equip themselves with the spirit of loving their soldiers, thereby consolidating the comradely unity of the entire army. This is how the army is developing into ranks that share one purpose and will with the Supreme Commander and have achieved single-hearted unity around him.

At Panmunjom

While Kim Jong Un was inspecting Panmunjom, the officials in his company and the officers on duty were all on tenterhooks.

On the balcony of the Panmun House he was guarded ring after ring by his entourage, who were keeping a sharp watch on the enemy dozens of metres away from where they were standing.

However, he looked very calm and composed, joking that he could not see any sign of the enemy.

After looking round several places, he suggested posing for a camera, ordering an officer to fetch all the officers who were on duty in and around the hall where the armistice talks had been held.

The officer said yes but stood motionless. After a while he requested that the officers on guard duty be brought back for the second photo session.

Kim Jong Un said in a resolute voice: No problem. I, the Supreme Commander, am here and the enemy will not dare provoke us. Today I am defending Panmunjom and you do not need to worry. You must bring all the duty officers here.

After a minute the officers rushed towards him, cheering in silence.

Kim Jong Un shook hands with them one by one and posed for a photo with them.

It was early in March when the country was in a hair-trigger situation, but the Supreme Commander had a photo taken with the duty officers at the centre of Panmunjom just a stone's throw away from the enemy soldiers.

In doing so he demonstrated once again his matchless courage and mettle, striking terror into the enemy.

A Day on Cho Island

The story about Kim Jong Il's visit to Cho Island braving the raging storms is widely known.

Since then the island has become a focus of the world as a witness to the severe and arduous struggle to defend socialism.

In March 2012 Kim Jong Un visited the island, a post on the West Sea of Korea.

Braving High Waves

That day the weather at sea was no less inclement as the day

when Kim Jong Il had visited the island.

According to the commanding officers of the naval unit, vessels had been put to sea only on unavoidable occasions because of ice floes.

After seeing the rough surface of the sea for a while, Kim Jong Un said that the waves were relatively high, adding: As I am going to Cho Island by a naval vessel, I am reminded of General Kim Jong Il who braved the raging storms in November 1996 to see the soldiers on Cho Island. The waves were so high that day that the General used to recollect the day's experience.

When he arrived at the island, the soldiers greeted him with cheers, shedding hot tears.

Waving back to them, he told the commanding officers that he wanted to visit a unit, which was not included in his itinerary, saying: People who live on an island feel quite pleased whenever they meet someone from land. When he meets another soldier hailing from his hometown, the feeling of a soldier would be immeasurable. If they knew that their Supreme Commander on his visit to the island went back without calling at their unit, the soldiers of that unit would feel sad.

He then visited the unit, and posed for a photo with its soldiers.

With the Officers' Wives

When Kim Jong Un was looking round the unit after posing for a photo with the soldiers, there arose cheers on a hill behind the barracks.

They were officers' wives who rushed out of their houses on hearing the news that Kim Jong Un was visiting their husbands' unit.

Seeing them, he said he could not move his steps however busy he was as he saw the women cheering so warmly, and motioned them to come down the hill.

The women halted for they were all in casual attire, but as they saw him motioning them, they ran down the hill and threw themselves into his arms.

Kim Jong Un posed for a photo with the women smiling and shedding tears of joy.

Only Water and Air

In October 2012 Kim Jong Un summoned the officers of the units that had been seconded to build parks across Pyongyang.

He said that following the project for improving the Hapjang and Pothong rivers, the army units should buckle down to the construction of modern parks in Pyongyang, adding that they should complete it on a high qualitative level in a short period without laying any burden on the residents.

He continued: As I often say, the People's Army must not seek help from the residents nor lay a burden on them when it is doing something for their benefit. In a word, it should expect to consume only water and air in a given area. If not, it cannot be called People's Army.

This had been his constant concern since he took charge of military affairs.

The previous year, when leading the challenging project of removing sediments from the settling pond near the February 8 Vinalon Complex, he often stressed the need for the soldiers to cause no inconvenience to the locals.

He said to the officers: I have entrusted the People's Army with the task of building modern parks in Pyongyang, as well as

the project for improving the Hapjang and Pothong rivers. This is chiefly aimed at ensuring that the army does more things for the good of the people to sustain its character as an army for the people and consolidate the army-people unity rock-solid.

While making the army lead the undertaking for improving the people's living standards, he guarded against its causing inconvenience to the locals. His intention in doing so was to strengthen the great army-people unity, the very foundation of Korean society, and thus bring forward victory in building a powerful socialist country.

As he is consolidating the army-people unity the way President Kim Il Sung and General Kim Jong Il did, the Korean revolution will continue to follow the road resplendent with victory.

Commanders Exist for Soldiers

On a balmy spring day in March 2013, Kim Jong Un visited a sub-unit of the People's Army.

After looking round several places of the sub-unit, he went to the kitchen.

Looking at the worktop filled with the materials to be cooked for dishes, he expressed satisfaction, saying: If we are to make

the soldiers regard their units as their dear homes, we should provide them with comfortable beds and rich food. On my visit to the units and sub-units of the army, I am most pleased when I feel warm in the soldiers' bedrooms and see their canteen tables spread with many dishes. These are units and sub-units that have accepted the Party's idea on turning the company into a place dear to the soldiers, and make strenuous efforts for the improvement of the soldiers' living. When the Party has entrusted them with the precious soldiers, it believes in the commanding officers, so you should take good care of them.

Take good care of the precious soldiers.

It was a request he made to all the officers of the army.

Kim Jong Un continued: Officers should always rack their brains to do one more thing for the good of the soldiers. The more they do, the better.

Mt Osong

Once, when he met a senior officer of a People's Army unit, Kim Jong Un recollected the day when he climbed Mt Osong.

He said: I want to see the soldiers again. Still vivid before my eyes are the soldiers who were seeing me off in tears as they

were reluctant to part from me.

It was one June day in 2013 when he climbed the mountain.

He was greeted by the commanding officers of the unit at the command post.

As the first leg of his visit he went to the monument set up to hand over to posterity the Songun leadership exploits of Kim Jong Il, who had climbed the mountain two times in 1998, in August and November.

After reading the letters inscribed on the monument, he said: Mt Osong is an open-air revolutionary site that conveys the leadership exploits of General Kim Jong Il. The road up to the mountain is really rugged and steep. It must have been rougher when the General came here. I was told that a foreigner, who had visited the mountain, had asked for a helicopter for he had grown dreadful about going down the mountain. This alone shows how rugged the road up to the mountain is.

He then went to the outdoor observation post at the command post.

While studying the enemy movements, he asked where the post nearest to the enemy's MP post was, saying he would go there.

The officers accompanying him were dumbfounded. Regaining their consciousness, they unanimously said he cannot and must not go there for it was dangerous there.

Kim Jong Un dug in his heels, saying: If I go back without seeing the soldiers who are defending their post with their guns directly levelled at the enemy, they will feel very sad. However dangerous it is, I will go to the sub-post of the post on Kkachil Peak and meet the soldiers there. This will instil in them confidence in victory and strike terror in the enemy.

When he arrived at the sub-post, the soldiers, who could not raise cheers, only shed tears. They were ready to cope with the enemy's possible manoeuvres, but their sub-post was too dangerous.

After acquainting himself in detail with their performance of combat duty, he posed for a photo with them and said that he would send the souvenir photos to their parents without fail, adding: Your post is never a solitary post. You should think that your Supreme Commander is always with you.

When he was leaving, the soldiers waved their hands, asking him not to go to such a dangerous place again.

Looking at them, Kim Jong Un said to the officers that the soldiers could not say farewell in a loud voice and waved back at them for a long while.

Down from the peak, he looked round the command of the unit.

He then said to the officers: When I said I would go to the sub-post on Kkachil Peak, only 350m away from the enemy's

post, you tried to dissuade me saying that I must not go there. But I went there lest I could not fall asleep if I had not met the soldiers serving in such a place. I am going to visit those army units and posts in dangerous places as well as those the General visited. There exists the Supreme Commander as there exist the soldiers.

Lofty Traits

A Desk Lamp

Kim Jong Un not only treasures and loves his comrades but also respects his revolutionary elders. This is his inborn trait.

Once officials found that his desk lamp was not serviceable enough and its light was somewhat dim. They obtained a new, better lamp.

One day in January 2008, officials brought a desk lamp to Kim Jong Un.

Kim Jong Un thanked them for it and said to them: I appreciate your sincerity but in the future you should not bring such things to me. My desk lamp is good, and at some future opportunity I will give this new lamp to one of our revolutionary elders.

The officials could say no more as they were deeply impressed by his ennobling sense of moral obligation to revolutionary forerunners.

Although they knew this was an inborn trait of his, they were very sorry for it.

They insisted that he should accept it, but to no avail.

He consoled them, saying: I am thankful for your sincerity, but this desk lamp is useful for the elderly as its light is bright and it is easy to handle. We should treasure and respect our revolutionary forerunners. They are veteran revolutionaries who have faithfully supported our great leaders and devoted themselves entirely to the good of the country and the people. If they did not work with devotion for the great leaders, we could not think of today. We must never forget the first and second generations of our revolution. And we should strive to learn from their infinite loyalty to the Party and the leader and their noble devotion to the country and the people.

Laughter

One July day in 2011 Kim Jong Un, in General Kim Jong Il's company, visited a general fruit processing factory.

When they reached the fruit punch production line, an official of the factory told him, pointing at the punch bottles moving along a conveyor belt, that its alcohol content was 5%. He explained: Alcohol is generated in the fermentation process. If one drinks this punch, thinking that it is a kind of

carbonated drink, they will gradually get drunken as if they had drunk too much beer.

Kim Jong Un said with a satisfied look: If you drink the punch from the factory with an alcohol content of 5%, you will feel like you drank wine.

He then said jokingly that some people, after drinking wine, might claim they had drunk the punch.

The accompanying officials laughed out loud.

When they were looking round the sample products exhibition room, Kim Jong Un asked what the alcohol content of the apple wine was.

An official immediately answered 30%.

Kim Jong Un said to him: You know the wine's alcohol content well. It means you are a heavy drinker.

Other officials gave a deep laugh at this joke.

Kim Jong Un was all smiles seeing a wide variety of fruit products on the shop-floor.

Meticulous Attention to Detail

In January 2012 Kim Jong Un visited a new shop yet to be inaugurated.

Seeing the display cases filled with a wide variety of

commodities, Kim Jong Un recollected how much concern General Kim Jong Il had directed to equipping the shop for the convenience of customers, particularly scientists and technicians, after fixing the site of the building himself.

He first looked round the household goods counter and then the daily necessities counter, where he examined the *Cosmos*-brand hairpins.

As he was leading the way to another counter, he suddenly turned back, saying that he failed to see the glasses on the daily necessities counter and he must go back there.

He picked a pair of sunglasses from a case where a wide variety of spectacles including sunglasses were on display, and the accompanying officials noticed a shadow passing over his face.

He said: The spectacles display case has not been so well designed to make it easy to pick up glasses. It should be a revolving case and customers will find it easier to select among them.

Then he tried on the sunglasses and asked where the mirror was.

A shop assistant standing nearby brought a mirror from the luxuries counter.

Noting that he did not intend to look at himself in the mirror, Kim Jong Un told the officials of the shop that there should

be a mirror near the spectacles counter so that customers with glasses on could see in it.

Officials felt guilty about failing to prioritize the comfort of customers.

At the writing instruments counter he tried a ballpoint pen and stressed that there should be sheets of paper for customers to write on.

At the cosmetics counter he advised that there should be slips of paper in the shape of a small spoon for customers to use when smelling the scent of perfumes.

Looking round the counters, Kim Jong Un pointed out shortcomings one after another.

He reiterated the importance of improving customer service to ensure that scientists and technicians would keenly feel the General's affection for them.

On the third floor he went to the foods counter.

He held one of the trolleys nearby. Putting two boxes of biscuits into it, he said: The trolleys beside the confectionary display case are for shoppers to use when transporting their purchases. I am putting the biscuits into a trolley. I am going to buy these biscuits but you must not believe that they are the best ones.

This joke gave rise to a burst of laughter.

After a moment Kim Jong Un wheeled the trolley down the

aisle between the display cases, and officials understood that he was doing so to see whether there might be any inconvenience for shoppers pushing the trolleys.

Trial Ride

One day Kim Jong Un accompanied General Kim Jong Il on his visit to the amusement park at the Kaeson Youth Park, in which the amusement facilities were on trial prior to the inauguration ceremony of the park.

In front of the twister coasters, the General said that officials should have a ride on them to ensure that visitors would feel at ease with the facility. When he instructed his entourage to ride on a coaster, Kim Jong Un stepped forward. The officials tried to dissuade him, who dug his heels in.

He got into a coaster, saying that he must have a ride on it as it would be used by the people. He reassured the officials, joking that they would travel together to outer space.

He grasped the control wheel and joked: It is time for me to parade my bravery.

The facility was switched on and the “pilots” were all happy to find that the coasters were safe.

VIP Seats Removed

One April day in 2012, Kim Jong Un visited the People's Theatre which was nearing completion. At that time all the people in the country were engaged in a grand construction campaign to celebrate the centenary of the birth of President Kim Il Sung as the greatest national holiday.

For long hours Kim Jong Un looked round several facilities in the theatre.

The People's Theatre that fully embodies the requirements of the new century is a gift by General Kim Jong Il to be presented to the people on the occasion of the 100th birthday of the President, he said, adding that the General who had devoted his all to the good of the people would have been very pleased if he had seen the theatre. He continued to praise the soldiers for having built it as an immaculate temple of culture and art in less than a year. Commenting that the theatre was really fantastic and every section of it was excellent, he gave it ten out of ten.

The accompanying officials were beaming at him.

Suddenly, a pleasant smile faded from his face as he was staring at the VIP seats in the centre of the auditorium.

These seats had been installed for Kim Jong Un.

Gazing around them, he said that in his lifetime the General had not liked any sort of preferential treatment for himself, adding that in the future, when he was seeing a performance at this theatre, he would sit alongside citizens.

Though well aware that he hated any privilege for his sake, the officials thought that it was an exceptional case.

As if reading their minds, he emphasized that they must have those seats removed.

Later, when enjoying a performance at the theatre, he sat alongside working people. His seat was No. 28 in the fourth row of the parterre.

At a Health Complex

One day in May 2012 Kim Jong Un visited the Kangsong Health Complex.

He was greatly satisfied to learn that it was built on the highest possible level to provide workers with optimal conditions for their leisure activities.

With a broad smile on his face he said he would pose for a photograph with the employees of the health complex.

At this news the women rushed outside, some running

down the staircase. They were all racing towards where he was standing, raising loud cheers.

Kim Jong Un was afraid that they might fall over, motioning to them to walk slowly.

Some came up and stood beside him, firmly holding his arms. And the late comers struggled on both sides of him to stand closer.

It was like children clinging on to their mum.

Kim Jong Un joked that the women were all very strong, calling them female “giants.”

At that there was a great roar of happy laughter.

Sound of the Wind

The following happened in May 2012, when Kim Jong Un was looking round a 45-storey apartment block on Changjon Street in the Mansudae area.

On the balcony of a flat on the top floor, he had a bird's eye view of the area that had been transformed beyond recognition, saying that Pyongyang seen from the balcony looked different, and that the cameramen would vie with one another to take a picture of the city on the balcony.

Suddenly he strained his ears, and opened a sliding

window before closing it.

The officials wondered why.

He said: I can hear the sound of the wind. The wind might be leaking in somewhere of the window.

The officials listened to the sound with all their ears. They could hear a sibilant sound coming from the windows.

Kim Jong Un resumed: The scenery seen from the flat is very good, but the sound of the wind blowing in from the window is not good.

In fact, the officials had neglected the point as they had already taken measures for preventing the wind from blowing in as far as they could and thought that the dwellers would not feel any great inconvenience in their living as there were windows between the living rooms and balconies.

Seeing the officials feeling remorseful, Kim Jong Un stressed: We should not make the people live in the houses, where the sound of the wind is heard. We should take thoroughgoing measures so that the wind would not blow in.

After he left, a campaign for removing the mistake in the flats was waged, and later the dwellers moved into new houses.

Chair with a Coat Hanger

Kim Jong Un visited the Rungna Water Park under construction.

In the changing room he saw lockers arranged in fine array. He surveyed the room and told officials that the chairs with coat hangers should be replaced with better ones as they would be used by the people.

This reminded them of what happened some days ago, when he inspected the construction site of the water park.

At that time the officials felt proud of the modern furnishings in the changing room.

Kim Jong Un examined every corner of the room and suggested that there should be chairs with coat hangers there.

Drawing a sketch of the chairs on his pocketbook, he said: If the room has chairs on which visitors can sit back to back, with a coat hanger for every one of them, they can sit on them, wearing socks and hanging their clothes on the hangers. It will make it possible to ensure their comfort and make the best use of the area of the changing room.

The people would not stay long in the changing room but they would feel more comfortable if it had lockers and chairs

with coat hangers. Furthermore, he emphasized that the chairs should be of the best possible quality.

The best things for the people—this was his ennobling view of the people.

The officials in his company were moved to tears by the benevolent measure he had adopted for the sake of the people.

They took great pride in having the people's leader.

Construction Project in His Direct Charge

In June 2012 Kim Jong Un visited the construction site of the Breast Tumour Institute of the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital to learn about how the project was progressing.

Going into details of the construction work, he told the director of the hospital, half joking, that the owner of the building should point out every minor fault to ensure its better quality, and that she should have patience and make exacting demands so the building can be perfected in an immaculate style.

While being briefed on the range of equipment to be installed in the hospital, he asked about an up-to-date machine.

The director hesitated in replying, as the machine was a high-end product that she had not dared to ask for.

As if reading her innermost feelings, Kim Jong Un said that he would try every possible means to bring in necessary equipment.

“Thank you very much,” said the director.

Kim Jong Un responded with a smile: It seems you are treating me like a guest. I, too, am in direct charge of the construction of the Breast Tumour Institute of your hospital.

In November the same year Kim Jong Un visited the institute again just after its inauguration. Making the rounds of the new building, he commented that the construction work was perfect. I am very happy to see the institute furnished with a complete set of latest medical equipment, he said, adding that he set great store by this project for the sake of women. He resumed that everything in it should meet global standards, emphasizing that nothing should be spared for our women.

A Blessed Couple

After a day's work the newlyweds Kim Hyok and Mun Kang Sun came back to their new flat in Changjon Street.

Not long after, there was the doorbell and, opening the door, they could hardly believe their eyes.

Their guest was Kim Jong Un.

Feeling as if in a dream, the couple greeted him, who shook hands with them.

He was shown around the rooms and, seeing the photo frames hanging on the wall of the drawing room, asked the couple when they had posed for the photos.

The wife answered that on July 30, 2009 General Kim Jong Il had visited the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill, posing for a photo with her and her colleagues. The husband said that as a soldier he had the honour of seeing the General at his unit.

The couple pointed at where they were standing in the photos.

Leaning his hand against the wall, Kim Jong Un looked into the photos and then the certificate of Labour Hero that had been conferred on the hostess.

He said to them that they were really a blessed couple.

This was his praise for the meritorious services the young couple had rendered to defending the country and developing it into a powerful socialist nation, seeking the worth of their life and their happiness in earnest devotion to national defence and the people's well-being.

Kim Jong Un asked them whether their parents had been to the new flat and whether there was any problem with the TV set, showing parental concern for their living conditions.

Then he asked when they had moved into the new flat.

They answered that they married on May 22 and moved in on July 2.

He filled a cup of wine for the couple as a token of his congratulations for moving into the new flat.

As he was told that the wife was pregnant, he asked about the host's opinion, adding that now most people liked sons.

The man replied that he wanted his wife to give birth to a daughter because she could be a weaving hero like her mother.

Kim Jong Un joked: Do you think she can do so as you wish? Perhaps, you are not sure she will bear a son to you.

The couple laughed heartily.

Kim Jong Un promised that after they had a child, he would drop by if he had a chance to go past Changjon Street.

The couple said in tears that they would look forward to seeing him again.

When he was posing for a photo with them, the newlyweds felt themselves the happiest couple in the world.

Naming a Baby

One day Kim Jong Un received a letter from a scholar surnamed Yon, who was an acquaintance of his. In the letter the scholar requested him to name his one-month-old son.

Kim Jong Un told officials about the letter and asked them if it was not a Korean custom that parents name their child.

An official said to him: Yon's mother was very pleased that her son's wedding was held under your concern and she had the eldest grandson. It is her wish that you name the child.

Kim Jong Un smiled and encouraged the officials to think up the child's name in his parents' place.

A lively discussion followed, each official suggesting one.

At long last Kim Jong Un said: I suggest Chong Song. What about calling the child Yon Chong Song in the sense that he will grow up to become an excellent official who is stalwart and upright like an evergreen pine tree.

The officials were unanimous that the name was meaningful and it sounded good.

Kim Jong Un said that the problem was how the child's

father and other members of the family would like it. Noting that it was the first time for him to name a child, he asked whether they would like it.

The officials all replied that they surely would.

Then I feel relieved but we should wait for their comment, he resumed.

He said to the officials in a humorous tone: Though it seems somewhat late, I advise each of you to have one more child. Then request me to name the children. I will name them all.

Everyone roared with laughter.

A Bath Ledge Redesigned

At the construction site of the Chongnyu Health Complex Kim Jong Un admired the view of the magnificent building, telling his entourage that it was marvellous.

He entered the lobby to see the walls decorated by stone mosaics. He commented that they were good-looking and peculiar.

Guided to a public bathroom, he stopped in front of a tub. Holding a handrail, he looked into a rectangular ledge on the floor of the tub.

Some officials looking anxious, he told one of them to have the sharp edge of the ledge blunted.

They could now understand why the ledge attracted his attention. Rectangular bath ledges were quite common and they had never thought that the people might get hurt in the tubs.

They all regarded him with respect, hardening their determination to serve the people more faithfully.

An Indispensable Requisite

The Chongnyu People's Open-Air Ice Rink sits on the bank of the Taedong River.

As its name implies, it renders a substantial contribution to the physical training of schoolchildren, young people and workers, and to developing the country's ice sport. As a hub of mass-based sports, it is furnished with up-to-date equipment and amenities.

Presented to the people by the Workers' Party of Korea, it represents the people-oriented character of the country's social system.

Under the roof resembling a surging wave is an oval rink that does not melt all the year round. Inside the building there are areas for handing out skates and monitoring, lounge,

clinic, radio room and other amenities. Almost every day it is crowded with people, young and old, men and women, having a pleasant time.

Every part and every facility of this ice rink is associated with Kim Jong Un's warm affection and meticulous care.

He inspected the ice rink at the final stage of its construction.

He made the rounds of several places of the ice rink, pointing out drawbacks and checking if there was anything more that might cause inconvenience to the people.

He asked officials whether there was an area for grinding the blade of a skate.

They were struck dumb.

As a matter of fact, they were certain that they could be proud of the ice rink before the world because it was equipped with all the requisites for ice sport.

Kim Jong Un said with a benign smile that as it was a public facility for ice-skating, there must be areas for handing out skates and grinding their blades.

These areas are indispensable to the ice rink, the officials thought. They realized once again that the people's interests and comfort were his absolute criteria for judging the value of structures.

Palace for Workers

The following happened in October 2013, when Kim Jong Un visited the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill.

He pointed to the necessity of resolving the problems of hostel and houses for the employees, noting that providing good living conditions for workers was no less important than maintaining regular production at the textile mill.

Looking round several places of the textile mill, he reiterated that the problems of hostel and houses should be resolved without any further delay and assured that he would have them built in a perfect way.

After being shown around the textile mill, he asked officials to guide him to where the hostel was to be constructed, saying that this would help him have a clear picture of it when making arrangements for its construction. I can't leave without seeing the site, he added.

Upon reaching the site, he commented that it was a good location and emphasized that the army should commit a powerful construction workforce to the project as soon as possible and complete it by the following year. He underlined

the need to push forward the project at a go, noting that another important project might present itself to the army by then.

The project went ahead as planned.

In April the following year Kim Jong Un visited the new hostel with a complete set of service amenities. He praised the service personnel for building the fine hostel for the textile mill and looked round it, paying attention to the minutest details.

He commented that the walls inside the hostel, painted in soft and warm colours, would be to women's liking, joking that he would make the textile mill pay for its wonderful hostel. Seeing a mirror hanging in an antechamber, he noted that it would be very useful for the girls who would make themselves up before going out or dating.

He went on: This is a workers' palace or a workers' hotel, rather than a workers' hostel. You may arrange for foreigners to visit this place. Then they will call Korea a country for workers.

A Prime Site

In January 2014 Kim Jong Un headed for Lake Yonphung after winding up his visit to the State Academy of Sciences.

On arriving at the lake, he looked at the scenery for a while. Then he told the accompanying director of the academy that he brought him there to show him where a holiday camp for scientists was to be constructed, before asking whether he liked the site.

He continued that the previous summer he had been to the lake twice and sailed about it each time to choose the site for the holiday camp.

He looked alternately at the artist's impressions in his hands and the shore of the lake where buildings would be located. Then he said to his entourage:

It is a prime site for the holiday camp. In summer the landscape was really great for its fresh air and a thick forest. In winter it is no less beautiful. If they are provided with ample conditions for a good rest, our scientists will achieve greater successes in their research. So, the Party decided to build the best holiday camp in the world on the shore of the

lake, which has splendid scenery and is associated with the leadership exploits of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il. We should provide everything necessary for scientists at the best possible level.

He reiterated that the holiday camp should be the best in the world, adding:

Whatever we create, we should make it something with no parallel in the world. This place will be transformed beyond recognition in a few months.

This was how the site for the Yonphung Scientists Holiday Camp was fixed.

The Most Precious of Treasures

Late in August 2015 torrential rain fell upon the city of Rason, causing heavy flooding. It razed the area, levelling houses, destroying railways, cutting off communications lines, suspending the supply of drinking water and covering streets with mud.

Witnessing this catastrophic damage, those who managed to evacuate were at a loss for what to do.

On the day when he was informed of the flooding, Kim Jong Un instructed officials of the city to take prompt steps

for removing the aftermath of the natural disaster—rebuilding houses and restoring the roads, railways and communications and power lines.

And at an enlarged meeting of the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea he issued an order in the name of the Supreme Commander on assigning the whole of the restoration project to the Korean People's Army to complete it before October 10, the founding anniversary of the WPK.

The relevant units of the KPA immediately set off, and the whole country turned out to render help.

In September the same year, when the restoration work was in full swing, Kim Jong Un visited the affected area.

He was informed of the fact that some residents acted selfishly after being told that better houses would be built for the families who had been left homeless.

He said to the officials concerned:

You must not make an issue of this. Those residents would not have done so if they had not trusted their Party. For us, people's trust in the Party is the most precious of treasures.

Everyone was moved to hear this, those who were guilty of their misconduct.

The following month, when he revisited Rason to look round the new houses, Kim Jong Un said:

Another beautiful village has sprung up in a little more than 30 days. Now I feel relieved to see the dear homes for the flood victims who were left homeless. I am happy, and how happier they would be, the people who will move into new houses.

No Impregnable Fortress

In April 2016, just before its inauguration, Kim Jong Un visited Unit 3 of the Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station, and said that by referring to the photo taken of the groundbreaking ceremony, which was displayed in the observation platform, he said he could see the area surrounding the unit had been transformed beyond recognition.

He went on:

I can see the slogan “When the Party is determined, we can do anything!” near the dam of the unit. As intended by the Party, the youth shock brigade members and other builders completed the project with credit under the most difficult conditions, once again demonstrating to the world that our Party’s determination automatically means the reality and materialization.

He then went over a collection of compositions, sketches, drawings and photo albums prepared by the on-site combined

headquarters of the construction of the Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station.

While going through the photo albums, he saw a caption *We Can Even Raise the Earth When We Are Trusted by Our Marshal*, which he commented was very impressive.

An official from the Central Committee of the youth league told him that the youth shock brigade members built the dam for Unit 3, with the faith and courage that they could even raise the earth when they were trusted by the Marshal.

Kim Jong Un said:

As we have such excellent young people, there is no impregnable fortress for us. If they raise the earth, then I will rotate it.

At the Yangdok Hot Spring Resort

The following happened in October 2019, when Kim Jong Un was making the rounds of the public baths at the newly-built Yangdok Hot Spring Resort.

After seeing the last bath, he told the accompanying officials that it would be good for them to try the bath.

Every one of them standing motionless, he urged them on.

Half confused and half delighted, they stepped into the tubs.

Now wallowing in warm water, all said it was quite refreshing.

Kim Jong Un asked if the water temperature was appropriate and what was causing them discomfort, if any.

The officials said everything was fine.

Kim Jong Un said that they should raise opinions with sincerity as it would be a present for the people.

The officials could now understand why he urged them to have a try on this bath.

Pointing to a tub, he said:

As you can see, when a man sits in a tub, the water reaches to his chest. This is not good. The tub should be deep enough for the water to reach to the neck, as a precaution against the cold. And handrails should be installed lest people slip and fall when stepping into the tubs.

Even after cutting the ribbon for the inauguration of the resort, Kim Jong Un looked round the tubs to ask people whether there were any inconveniences and what they thought was missing.

Indeed, this resort is a fruition of his ennobling love for the people.

Cradle of Happiness for the People

In March 2021, when he was at the riverside near the Pothong Gate, Kim Jong Un suggested building a district of modern terraced houses on the bank of the Pothong River and allocating them to labour innovators, merited persons and other working people in different sectors, who had been working with devotion for the Party and the state.

He said to officials in his company:

This is the site of President Kim Il Sung's old home. Here we will construct houses for the people, not public buildings. This is just a policy of our Party. The President would be pleased if he knew that his home would be removed in the district to make way for modern terraced houses for the people. To think of this, I feel as if he set aside this good location to help us.

In April 2022, during the inauguration of the Pothong Riverside Terraced Houses District, he said:

After all, nothing but the President's home was removed in this district. Today he would be satisfied if he could see this

cradle of happiness for patriots and merited persons, which sprang up where his old home had been. He would be very delighted feeling as if he had the people, whom he had loved so much all his life, in his warm embrace.

Love the Future

A Holiday Spent with Children

The following happened on the lunar New Year's Day in 2012.

On this holiday, unlike in previous years, Mangyongdae Revolutionary School was in a gloomy mood since it was the first year following the death of General Kim Jong Il.

The children were all standing by the windows with longing for the fatherly leader.

At the news that Kim Jong Un was coming to the school, they, together with all the teaching staff, ran out into the courtyard.

Saluted by an officer of the school, he extended his congratulations to its officials on the occasion of lunar New Year's Day.

Noting that he came to see the children of the revolutionary martyrs at the school, he said:

Greeting the lunar New Year's Day, I had many places to go but I have come to this school first, because I thought that the children of the school would be yearning so much for General

Kim Jong Il. This is the first lunar New Year's Day after the General's death. So who else but I should greet the holiday together with them on behalf of their parents?

The children raised loud cheers, stamping their feet.

Kim Jong Un waved his hand to the children who were cheering in tears. He came up to a boy and stroked his face with both hands. Wiping away tears from his eyes, he asked the boy if he was not cold. Then he did the same to some others, holding their cold hands in his. It was a moving scene, indeed.

He said to officials:

The children's hands are very cold. The great leaders loved our children and it is intolerable to have their hands frozen. They should put on gloves as soon as possible.

The children could not keep back their tears as they were impressed by his paternal care.

They were reminded of the snowy day when the General had visited their school and shown close concern for their living conditions.

They were now in firm belief that to them, lunar New Year's Day would remain a holiday of hope and happiness.

At Kyongsang Kindergarten

Shouldering a Task

When guided to a classroom at Kyongsang Kindergarten, Kim Jong Un found it stuffy as the hottest season of the year was about to set in.

He asked the directress of the kindergarten what the room temperature was. The latter explained that it was difficult to keep normal temperature in the rooms of her kindergarten on sultry or cold days.

Kim Jong Un read her mind and laughed, saying that she must be asking him for air-conditioners. Then he inquired about how they would remove moisture. Noting that air-conditioners were essential to the normal temperature of the rooms, he said that as she made such a suggestion with trust in him, he would regard it as his own task and carry it out without fail.

After a moment's thought he told officials that she broached a very important problem in a low voice and it was an astute proposal.

There was a burst of laughter, making the directress turn scarlet from embarrassment.

As if comforting her, Kim Jong Un said that she made

the suggestion directly to him because she had a high sense of responsibility for her duty, adding that other officials should follow suit and make persistent efforts to carry through their tasks.

A New Courtyard

It happened just after the news spread that Kim Jong Un visited Kyongsang Kindergarten in Changjon Street.

A crowd gathered around the kindergarten, only to see builders digging up the newly paved courtyard. They stood dumfounded because they presumed that it was wide and well-designed as suited to the preschoolers' age and psychological characteristics.

An official of the kindergarten told them the following story:

One day in May 2012 Kim Jong Un visited the kindergarten.

It was very hot in Pyongyang as summer was near at hand.

He stood long under the blazing sun on the courtyard and the accompanying officials were guiding him into the kindergarten.

But he halted and looked at the playground with a serious face. There were some amusement facilities on the new pavement.

He told officials that the courtyard of the kindergarten was paved with asphalt but it was not good to pave the playground in the same fashion. It should be covered with sand or turned

into a green area, he pointed out. He added that children might suffer injuries if they fell from a swing on the pavement.

He said to the official in charge of the construction project:

The playground of Kyongsang Kindergarten should be covered with sand or turned into a green area lest the children get injured.

The officials concerned felt guilty of paying scant concern to the naughty children who would play on the asphalt pavement. They simply assumed that the playground would be clean even on a rainy day.

However, Kim Jong Un identified the drawback of the playground at first glance.

The officials could apprehend his lofty intention: Even if the playground was newly paved at a great expenditure of raw materials and labour, it must be redone if it causes inconvenience to children.

True to his intention the builders transformed the courtyard overnight, digging up the asphalt pavement, covering the courtyard with rubber mats and turning the playground into a green area.

Kim Jong Un had an assortment of new amusements sent to the kindergarten.

The happy laughter of the children playing in the new courtyard still reverberates through the street.

The Children's Department Store Tells

Playing Areas in the Department Store

The Pyongyang Children's Department Store was renovated at the same time as the construction of Changjon Street. Inside the building there are playing areas of unique design, which always bustle with children.

The following is how these areas were set up.

It was in May 2012 that Kim Jong Un visited the department store for the first time.

Looking round the department store, he commented that its floor space was very wide and stressed that inside it there should be playing areas for children, as well as the counters.

Kim Jong Un explained that while adults were making the rounds of the counters to buy goods, children could spend their time playing their favourite games or reading books in the playing areas, adding that this was conducive to the development of their intelligence.

Later, before the department store was opened to the public, he had 2 296 recreational apparatuses of 28 kinds sent to it, including car, slide, mushroom house, tunnel, monster and palm island.

Visit Resulted in Being Burdened with Debt

The Pyongyang Children's Department Store, which is located on a prime site in Pyongyang, was renovated.

Now it is frequented by a great number of children and the people, parents buying goods for their children at the toy and other counters and their children playing at the kid's playing areas on every floor.

One of the priorities Kim Jong Un was concerned with during his visit to the store was toys.

An official of the store reported to him that the store was supplied with various kinds of goods except toys.

With a serious look on his face, Kim Jong Un said that the toy problem was an urgent one now.

Immersed in deep thought, he looked around the counters on the second floor. On his way to the third floor, he told the accompanying officials that they should make scrupulous arrangements for importing a set of general toy factory and that if it was imported and started production, the toy problem would be solved.

The officials of the store, now becoming "covetous," told him that when the factory was set up, they would be pleased if their store was supplied with all its products.

Wearing a bright smile, Kim Jong Un willingly agreed.

The officials said that they would wait for the toys.

Kim Jong Un laughed heartily, saying that today's visit resulted in his being burdened with a debt.

All the officials burst into merry laughter, feeling the leader's ardent love for the rising generation.

An Expression of Formalism

Early in July 2012 Kim Jong Un visited the department store again.

At the sporting goods counter he saw a small table tennis bat.

He picked it up and studied it for a while. Then he said that there would be no suitable ball for such a small bat and children had to play table tennis with a pea. He continued to point out that this was precisely an expression of formalism.

The officials concerned and the staff of the department store were embarrassed, as they paid little heed to the development of children's intelligence. They had taken it for granted that children's toys should be small and they should be nice-looking.

Kim Jong Un resumed:

We should eliminate such formalism. We should produce everything so that they are useful and flawless. We should build an intelligent toy factory in a modern fashion as soon as possible to provide our children with better toys.

He continued to say that he would have jigsaw puzzles and other intelligent toys sent to the department store until the mass-production of such toys.

The officials and all others saw in him a benevolent father of Korean children showing meticulous concern for their intellectual growth.

Naming a Baby at Conference

The following happened during the First Conference of Pilots of the Korean People's Army in April 2014.

After declaring the conference closed, Kim Jong Un sat in his chair instead of leaving the conference hall. He then said:

I have one more thing to discuss with you. When I was inspecting an Air Force unit, I promised to name the new-born son of a woman pilot. I am sorry for failing to keep the promise.

Participants in the conference were surprised, and the impact on the parents was greater.

Kim Jong Un visited the unit one month previously.

After guiding the training of the pilots, he had a photo session with the pilot couples. A woman pilot, who had given birth to a baby some days ago, wanted to ask him to name it, but she was hesitant to do so.

Reading her mind, an officer of the unit told him that she had mothered a son some days ago and wished him to name it.

Laughing heartily, Kim Jong Un said:

Look. Each time I visit this unit, I receive an unexpected request.

He then asked the names of the parents and left the unit, saying he would think about it and inform them of it later.

When he visited the Okryu Children's Hospital, he learned that the woman pilot was hospitalized there with her son. He said that he was always thinking about how to name the baby but he failed to choose an appropriate name, adding that he would give it a good name.

He asked the woman pilot, who was present at the conference, if she had not named her son yet.

The woman pilot answered she had not done yet as he had said he would name it.

Stating that he would name the baby now, he said:

I am not sure whether your son would become a pilot and it would be good for him to do so to defend the sky over his country. Even though he chooses another job, I wish him to support the Party with a pure conscience and follow only the road of loyalty and patriotism for the prosperity of the country. In this sense, I want to name him Ri Chung Do.

All the participants as well as the woman pilot raised cheers

as the name was so meaningful. Ri is the baby's surname, Chung means loyalty and Do, road.

Children Cut the Ribbon of Inauguration

In June 2015, Kim Jong Un visited the Wonsan Baby Home and Wonsan Orphanage for the third time before its inauguration ceremony as he wanted to see once again the new houses for orphans.

After seeing the slogan "We Are the Happiest in the World!" displayed on the front wall of the building of the Wonsan Orphanage, he said it was wonderful, and went round the baby home and orphanage.

He said that President Kim Il Sung and General Kim Jong Il would have been very pleased if they had seen the palatial houses for orphans, and he had realized another wish of the great leaders who had always been concerned with orphans.

He added that this baby home and orphanage should be given wide publicity, and that looking at the creations like the baby home and orphanage, people should feel the advantages of our-style socialist system and find the worth of their life in the happy looks of the orphans.

Before leaving, he said:

It is the International Children's Day today. The inauguration ceremony of the Wonsan Baby Home and Orphanage should be held as soon as possible, so that the children can move to their new houses. At the inauguration ceremony the orphans should cut the inauguration ribbon. If they do so, they will remember in their whole lives the day when they first entered their new houses. The President and the General would also have been pleased if they had seen the orphans cutting the inauguration ribbon.

A few days later, the orphans moved to their new houses after cutting the ribbon by themselves.

Setting New Criterion of Evaluation

One day in November 2015, Kim Jong Un visited the Pyongyang Children's Foodstuff Factory and dropped in at the exhibition room of sample products.

Looking at the sample products one after another, he said to an official accompanying him:

Now the factory should proceed to diversify its products. As its production lines have been renovated and a system of analyzing products has been set up, it can ensure the nutritional

and hygienic requirements of the products. It should set a new goal to make the products more delicious.

One cannot deceive children in eating. They are very sensitive to foods. Though they cannot speak, babies can feel the tastes of foods. When they are told about the shortage of food and persuaded to take unpalatable foods, adults will eat them. But this is not the case with children.

He was setting a new criterion of evaluation in achieving the production goal.

**ANECDOTES OF
KIM JONG UN'S LIFE**

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